

Richard O'Sullivan

Titles: 20

Sources: 4

Stills: 4

Born: Chiswick, London; 7th May 1944

Television light comedian of such sitcoms as **"Man About The House"**, he played the ringleader of a pupils' revolt (to save a popular headmaster) in **"CARRY ON TEACHER"**, and took a junior part in a pupils' revolt (to save a popular teacher) in **"IT'S GREAT TO BE YOUNG"**. In **"THE WEBSTER BOY"** he was singled out for bullying by a sadistic master while, for a complete change of pace, in **"SPARE THE ROD"** he was singled out for bullying by a sadistic master. His debut film, **"LA MANO DELLA STRANIERO"**, saw him as a boy whose father (Trevor Howard) is kidnapped when they're due to meet up in Venice. In contrast to his adult persona, the younger O'Sullivan was often cast in truculent or belligerent mood, rarely as the impish mischief-maker his temperament seemed best suited for.



LA MANO DELLA STRANIERO

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*



The Adventures of Robin Hood (TV series)

Source: Golden Age of Children's Television

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"British juvenile, formerly child actor."

Halliwell's Television Companion entry:

"British leading light actor, former child star. Series: **"A Man About the House"**, **"Doctor In Charge"**, **"Robin's Nest"**, **"Dick Turpin"**."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"His father was a mechanic, and Richard started elocution and dancing lessons when he was four. Three years later he made his film debut, playing Trevor Howard's son in **"THE STRANGER'S HAND"**, and two years after that, in **"DANGEROUS EXILE"**, he was royalty: a somewhat fictional version of poor Louis XVIII, happily escaped to Wales.

O'Sullivan, by now sporting his characteristic twisted smile, pressed on into a mixture of teenage rave-ups and grown-up weepies: **"THE NUN'S STORY"** (60), **"A STORY OF DAVID"** (60), **"AND WOMEN SHALL WEEP"** (60), **"SPARE THE ROD"** (61), **"THE YOUNG ONES"** (62), then **"CLEOPATRA"** (63, as Ptolemy), **"WONDERFUL LIFE"** (64), **"A DANDY IN ASPIC"** (68), **"THE HAUNTED HOUSE OF HORROR"** (69) and so on into the Seventies.

Hereafter, though, his career lay largely in television. In comedy series like **"Doctor at Large"**, **"Doctor in Charge"**, **"Father, Dear Father"**, **"Man About the House"**, **"Robin's Nest"**, **"Me and My Girl"** and **"Trouble in Mind"**, O'Sullivan became one of Britain's most popular light comedians of the wry, homely kind. As a change of scene, he also played the title role in a **"Dick Turpin"** series."



Age 17, yet ludicrously cast as a prep school boy of 14, in **"THE WEBSTER BOY"**. No wonder he looks so sheepish.

Source: Films & Filming



In **"MANO DELLA STRANIERO"**

Source: NFT Bulletin Aug-Sep 72

Ephraim Hardcastle gossip column –
Daily Mail May 8th 2002 – note:

“My search for the whereabouts of missing TV star Richard O’Sullivan has borne early fruit. Reader Larry Darbon says he often sees Mr O’Sullivan, 58 yesterday, refreshing himself in the Kew Gardens hotel, or waiting for a bus nearby. Actor Nicky Henson, 57 next week, says Mr O’Sullivan also frequents the Coach and Horses in Kew Green. “Richard’s alive and well, living quite happily in semi-retirement. He’s really OK.” ”

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 53	9	LA MANO DELLA STRANIERO / THE STRANGER'S HAND	
54	10	DANCE LITTLE LADY with Jane Aird, Mandy Miller	as Peter
54		THE DARK AVenger	
54		FOREVER IS A LONG TIME	
54		THE GREEN SCARF	
54		MAKE ME AN OFFER	
55	11	THE SECRET with Mandy Miller	
56	12	DANGEROUS EXILE	
56		IT'S GREAT TO BE YOUNG £	as Lawson
56		JACQUELINE	
56		RAIDERS OF THE RIVER (serial)	
56		Little Lord Fauntleroy	TV (serial?) - in title role?
57	13	NO TIME FOR TEARS with Christopher Witty	
--		The Adventures of Robin Hood	(UK ch TV series - guest appearance)
59	15	CARRY ON TEACHER £	as Jenkins
59		WITNESS IN THE DARK	
60	16	THE NUN'S STORY	
60		A STORY OF DAVID	
60		AND WOMEN SHALL WEEP	
60		DuPont Show of the Month (live TV)	as Jim Hawkins (?)
61	17	SPARE THE ROD £	as Harkness
61		THE WEBSTER BOY £	in title role, Jimmie Webster, 14
61		THE YOUNG ONES / WONDERFUL TO BE YOUNG with Melvyn Hayes	as Ernest
62	18	THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER with Sean Scully	
63	19	CLEOPATRA	as young pharoah Ptolomey
64	20	WONDERFUL LIFE	
--	--	Great Expectations	TV (serial?)
--	--	All Aboard	TV